

We claim:

1. A system for acquiring and reviewing a body of information, wherein the body of information includes a plurality of segments, each segment representing a defined set of information in the body of information, the system comprising:

means for acquiring data representing the body of information;

means for storing the acquired data;

10 first display means for generating a display of a first segment of the body of information from data that is part of the stored data;

15 means for comparing data representing a segment of the body of information to data representing a different segment of the body of information to determine whether, according to one or more predetermined criteria, the compared segments are related; and

20 second display means for generating a display of a portion of, or a representation of, a second segment of the body of information from data that is part of the stored data, wherein the second display means displays the portion or representation of the second segment in response to the display by the first display means of a first segment to which the second segment is related.

25 2. A system as in Claim 1, wherein the second display means displays the portion or representation of the second segment substantially coextensive in time with the display of the related first segment by the first display means.

3. A system as in Claim 1, wherein:

30 at least a portion of the body of information is represented by audiovisual data;

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the first segment is represented by audiovisual data;
the first display means displays an audiovisual
display of the first segment; and
the second segment is represented by audiovisual
5 data.

4. A system as in Claim 3, further comprising means for
selecting a segment for which a portion or representation is
displayed by the second display means, wherein selection of
such segment causes the first display means to display an
10 audiovisual display of the selected segment.

5. A system as in Claim 1, wherein:
at least a portion of the body of information is
represented by audiovisual data;
the first display means displays an audiovisual
15 display of the first segment; and
the second display means displays a text display of
a portion or representation of the second segment.

6. A system as in Claim 1, wherein:
the first display means is an analog display device;
20 and
the second display means is a digital display device.

7. A system as in Claim 1, wherein:
the first display means is a television; and
the second display means is a computer display
25 monitor.

8. A system as in Claim 1, further comprising means for
identifying the subject matter content of a segment of the body
of information, wherein the means for comparing further

comprises means for determining the similarity of the subject matter content of a segment to the subject matter content of a different segment, the predetermined criteria including a predefined degree of similarity with respect to which the relatedness of the compared segments is determined.

9. A system as in Claim 8, wherein the means for determining the similarity of the subject matter of segments further comprises means for performing a relevance feedback method.

10 10. A system as in Claim 1, wherein the means for acquiring data further comprises means for acquiring television broadcast signals.

11. A system as in Claim 1, wherein the means for acquiring data further comprises means for acquiring radio broadcast signals.

12. A system as in Claim 1, wherein the means for acquiring data further comprises means for acquiring computer-readable data files over a computer network from an information providing site that is part of that network.

20 13. A system as in Claim 1, wherein the means for acquiring data further comprises:

means for acquiring television broadcast signals; and

means for acquiring computer-readable data files over a computer network from an information providing site that

25 is part of that network.

14. A system as in Claim 13, wherein:

the first segment is represented by data produced

from the television broadcast signals; and
the second segment is represented by data from the
computer-readable data files.

15. A system as in Claim 1, further comprising means for
5 identifying an instruction from a user to begin displaying at
least some of the body of information, wherein the first
display means begins displaying a segment in response to the
user instruction.

16. A system as in Claim 1, wherein the first and second
10 display means are physically separate.

17. A system as in Claim 1, wherein the means for storing
the acquired data, the first display means and the second
display means are interconnected to a conventional computer bus
that enables the devices to communicate with each other such
15 that the devices do not require wire communication over network
communication lines to communicate with each other.

18. A system for reviewing a body of audiovisual
information that can vary with time, the system comprising:
means for displaying the audiovisual information; and
20 means for controlling operation of the system, the
means for controlling being physically separate from the
means for displaying, the means for controlling including
a graphical user interface for enabling specification of
control instructions.

25 19. A system as in Claim 18, wherein the means for
controlling is portable.

20. A system as in Claim 19, further comprising means for 2-way wireless communication between the means for displaying and the means for controlling.

21. A system as in Claim 18, wherein the graphical user interface includes a playback control region for enabling specification of control instructions that control the manner in which the audiovisual information is displayed by the means for displaying.

22. A system as in Claim 21, wherein:

10 the audiovisual information includes a plurality of segments, each segment representing a defined set of information in the audiovisual information;

15 the playback control region includes an interface that enables selection of one of a plurality of subject matter categories; and

20 the means for controlling further comprises:

 means for identifying the subject matter category of a segment; and

 means for controlling the system to display each of the segments that correspond to a selected subject matter category.

23. A system as in Claim 21, wherein:

25 the playback control region includes an interface that enables variation of the apparent display rate at which the audiovisual information is displayed; and

 the means for controlling further comprises means for controlling the means for displaying to cause the audiovisual information to be displayed at an apparent display rate other than a normal display rate.

24. A system as in Claim 21, wherein:

the audiovisual information includes a plurality of segments, each segment representing a defined set of information in the audiovisual information;

5 the playback control region includes an interface that enables specification of the display of a summary of a segment of the audiovisual information; and

the means for controlling further comprises:

10 means for summarizing a segment of the audiovisual information; and

means for controlling the means for displaying to cause the summary of the segment to be displayed.

25. A system as in Claim 21, wherein:

the playback control region includes:

15 an interface that enables specification of a pause instruction; and

an interface that enables specification of a resume instruction; and

the means for controlling further comprises:

20 means for identifying a pause instruction from a user;

means for controlling the means for displaying to stop the display of the audiovisual information in response to identification of the pause instruction;

25 means for identifying a resume instruction from a user; and

means for controlling the means for displaying to restart the display of the audiovisual information in response to identification of the resume instruction, wherein the audiovisual information is displayed at an accelerated rate that

is greater than the rate at which the audiovisual information was previously displayed, such accelerated rate continuing until the display of the audiovisual information coincides with the display that would have appeared had the display not been paused.

- 5 26. A system as in Claim 21, wherein:
- 10 the audiovisual information includes a plurality of segments, each segment representing a defined set of information in the audiovisual information;
- 15 the playback control region includes an interface that enables specification of a termination instruction; and
- 20 the means for controlling further comprises:
- 15 means for identifying a termination instruction from a user; and
- 25 means for terminating display of the segment currently being displayed and beginning display of a new segment in response to identification of a termination instruction.
- 25 27. A system as in Claim 21, wherein:
- 30 the audiovisual information includes a plurality of segments, each segment representing a defined set of information in the audiovisual information;
- 25 the playback control region includes an interface that enables specification of a repeat instruction; and
- 30 the means for controlling further comprises:
- 25 means for identifying a repeat instruction from a user; and
- 30 means for repeating the display of the segment currently being displayed in response to

identification of a repeat instruction.

28. A system as in Claim 18, wherein the graphical user interface includes a map region for providing a description of the subject matter content of the audiovisual information and 5 for enabling specification of control instructions that enable navigation within the audiovisual information.

29. A system as in Claim 28, wherein:

the audiovisual information includes a plurality of segments, each segment representing a defined set of 10 information in the audiovisual information; and

the map region further identifies a segment of the audiovisual information that is currently being displayed.

30. A system as in Claim 28, wherein:

the audiovisual information includes a plurality of 15 segments, each segment representing a defined set of information in the audiovisual information; and

the map region further identifies each segment of the audiovisual information that has previously been displayed.

20 31. A system as in Claim 18, wherein:

the audiovisual information includes a plurality of segments, each segment representing a defined set of 25 information in the audiovisual information; and

the graphical user interface includes a related information region for displaying a portion of, or a representation of, a segment that is related to a segment being displayed by the means for displaying.

32. A system as in Claim 18, wherein:

the audiovisual information includes a plurality of segments, each segment representing a defined set of information in the audiovisual information; and

5 the graphical user interface includes a secondary information display region for displaying a secondary information segment that is related to a segment of the audiovisual information that is being displayed by the means for displaying.

33. A system as in Claim 18, wherein the audiovisual
10 information further comprises the content from one or more news
programs.

34. A system for reviewing a body of information, the body of information including a first portion that is represented by audiovisual data that can vary with time and a
15 second portion that is represented by text data, comprising:

a first display device for displaying the first portion of information, the first display device particularly adapted for generation of a display from time-varying audiovisual data; and

20 a second display device for displaying the second portion of information, the second display device particularly adapted for generation of a display from text data.

35. A method for acquiring and reviewing a body of information, wherein the body of information includes a plurality of segments, each segment representing a defined set of information in the body of information, the method comprising the steps of:

acquiring data representing the body of information;
30 storing the acquired data;

generating a display of a first segment of the body of information from data that is part of the stored data;

5 comparing data representing a segment of the body of information to data representing a different segment of the body of information to determine whether, according to one or more predetermined criteria, the compared segments are related; and

10 generating a display of a portion of, or a representation of, a second segment of the body of information from data that is part of the stored data, wherein the display of the portion or representation of the second segment is generated in response to the display of a first segment to which the second segment is related.

36. A method for categorizing according to subject matter
15 an uncategorized segment of a body of information that includes a plurality of segments, each segment representing a defined set of information in the body of information, one or more segments of the body of information having previously been categorized by identifying each of the one or more segments
20 with one or more subject matter categories, the method comprising the steps of:

25 determining the degree of similarity between the subject matter content of the uncategorized segment and the subject matter content of each of the previously categorized segments;

30 identifying one or more of the previously categorized segments as relevant to the uncategorized segment based upon the determined degrees of similarity of subject matter content between the uncategorized segment and the previously categorized segments; and

selecting one or more subject matter categories with which to identify the uncategorized segment based upon the

subject matter categories used to identify the relevant previously categorized segments.

37. A method as in Claim 36, wherein the step of determining the degree of similarity is accomplished using a 5 relevance feedback method.

38. A method as in Claim 36, wherein the step of identifying one or more of the previously categorized segments as relevant to the uncategorized segment further comprises the steps of:

- 10 identifying a plurality of the previously categorized segments that are the most similar to the uncategorized segment;
- 15 determining the degree of similarity between each of the plurality of previously categorized segments and each other of the plurality of previously categorized segments;
- 20 for each pair of previously categorized segments of the plurality of previously categorized segments having greater than a predefined degree of similarity, eliminating one of the pair of previously categorized segments from the plurality of previously categorized segments, wherein the previously categorized segment or segments remaining after the step of eliminating are similar and distinct previously categorized segments; and
- 25 identifying one or more of the similar and distinct previously categorized segments as relevant previously categorized segments.

39. A method as in Claim 36, wherein the step of selecting one or more subject matter categories further comprises selecting the most frequently occurring subject matter category or categories associated with the relevant 5 previously categorized segments.

40. A system as in Claim 36, wherein the uncategorized segment has been acquired from a first data source and the previously categorized segment or segments have been acquired from a second data source that is different than the first data 10 source.

41. A system as in Claim 40, wherein:
the data acquired from the first data source are television or radio broadcast signals; and
the data acquired from the second data source are 15 computer-readable data files.

42. A method for determining whether a first set of information represented by a set of data of a first type is relevant to a second set of information represented by a set of data of a second type, the first and second sets of information 20 being different from each other, the method comprising the steps of:

25 deriving a set of data of the second type from the set of data of the first type, the derived set of data of the second type also being representative of the first set of information;

determining the degree of similarity between the set of data of the second type representing the second set of information and the derived set of data of the second type representing the first set of information; and

30 determining whether the first set of information is

relevant to the second set of information based upon the degree of similarity between the set of data of the second type representing the second set of information and the derived set of data of the second type representing the first set of information.

5 43. A method as in Claim 42, wherein the first type of data is audiovisual data and the second type of data is text data.

10 44. A method as in Claim 43, wherein the step of determining the degree of similarity is accomplished using a relevance feedback method.

15 45. A method as in Claim 42, wherein a plurality of sets of information, each different from the other sets of the plurality of sets of information, are each represented by an associated set of data of the second type, the method enabling determination of which, if any, of the plurality of sets of information represented by a set of data of the second type are relevant to the first set of information represented by the set of data of the first type, the method further comprising the 20 steps of:

25 determining the degree of similarity between each set of data of the second type representing one of the plurality of sets of information and the derived set of data of the second type representing the first set of information;

30 identifying which, if any, of the sets of data of the second type representing one of the plurality of sets of information have greater than a predefined degree of similarity to the derived set of data of the second type representing the first set of information, the sets of

data of the second type so identified being termed similar sets of data of the second type;

5 determining the degree of similarity between each similar set of data of the second type and each other similar set of data of the second type;

10 for each pair of similar sets of data of the second type having greater than a predefined degree of similarity, eliminating one of the pair of similar sets of data of the second type from the set of similar sets of data of the second type, wherein the set or sets of similar data of the second type remaining after the step of eliminating are similar and distinct sets of data of the second type; and

15 identifying the set or sets of information corresponding to one or more of the similar and distinct sets of data of the second type as relevant to the second set of information.

46. A method as in Claim 45, wherein the step of identifying the relevant set or sets of information further 20 comprises identifying no more than a predetermined number of relevant sets of information, the predetermined number of relevant sets of information corresponding to the sets of data of the second type having the greatest degree of similarity to the derived set of data of the second type.

25 47. A method for identifying the boundaries of segments in a body of information, each segment comprising a contiguous related set of information in the body of information, wherein the body of information is represented by at least a set of text data and a set of video data, the method comprising the 30 steps of:

performing a coarse partitioning method, the coarse

partitioning method further comprising the steps of:

identifying time-stamped markers in the set of text data; and

determining approximate segment boundaries within the body of information as the times of occurrence of the time-stamp markers;

for each approximate segment boundary, specifying a range of time that includes the time of occurrence of the approximate segment boundary;

extracting subsets of video data from the set of video data that occur during the specified ranges of time;

performing a fine partitioning method to identify one or more breaks in the set of video data; and

selecting the best break that occurs in each subset of video data, the time of occurrence of the best break in each subset being designated as a boundary of a segment in the body of information.

48. A method as in Claim 47, wherein the step of performing a fine partitioning method further comprises identifying the best breaks using a process that includes scene break identification.

49. A method as in Claim 47, wherein the step of fine partitioning is performed on the entire set of video data to identify all of the breaks in the set of video data.

50. A method as in Claim 47, wherein the step of fine partitioning is performed only on the subsets of video data to identify only breaks that occur in the subsets.

51. A method as in Claim 47, wherein the best break of each subset is determined according to the criteria of the fine partitioning method used.

52. A method as in Claim 47, wherein the best break of each subset is the break occurring closest in time to the time of occurrence of the segment boundary in the text data that corresponds to that subset.

53. A method as in Claim 47, wherein the body of information is represented by a set of text data, a set of 10 audio data and a set of video data, the method further comprising the steps of:

ascertaining a synchronization of the audio data and the video data; and

15 determining the location of the segment boundaries in the set of audio data using the previously determined location of the segment boundaries in the set of video data and the synchronization of the audio data and video data.

54. A method for identifying the boundaries of segments 20 in a body of information, each segment comprising a contiguous related set of information in the body of information, wherein the body of information is represented by a set of text data, a set of video data, and a set of audio data the method comprising the steps of:

25 performing a coarse partitioning method, the coarse partitioning method further comprising the steps of:

identifying time-stamped markers in the set of text data; and

30 determining approximate segment boundaries within the body of information as the times of

- occurrence of the time-stamp markers;
for each approximate segment boundary, specifying a range of time that includes the time of occurrence of the approximate segment boundary;
- 5 extracting subsets of audio data from the set of audio data that occur during the specified ranges of time;
- performing a fine partitioning method to identify one or more breaks in the set of audio data;
- selecting the best break that occurs in each subset of audio data, the time of occurrence of the best break in each subset being designated as a boundary of a segment in the body of information;
- 10 ascertaining a synchronization of the audio data and the video data; and
- 15 determining the location of the segment boundaries in the set of video data using the previously determined location of the segment boundaries in the set of audio data and the synchronization of the audio data and video data.
- 20 55. A method as in Claim 54, wherein the step of performing fine partitioning further comprises identifying the best breaks using a process that includes pause recognition.
56. A method as in Claim 54, wherein the step of performing fine partitioning further comprises identifying the best breaks using a process that includes voice recognition.
- 25 57. A method as in Claim 54, wherein the step of performing fine partitioning further comprises identifying the best breaks using a process that includes word recognition.
58. A method as in Claim 54, wherein the step of

performing fine partitioning further comprises identifying the best breaks using a process that includes music recognition.

59. A computer readable medium encoded with one or more computer programs for enabling acquisition and review of a body of information, wherein the body of information includes a plurality of segments, each segment representing a defined set of information in the body of information, comprising:

instructions for acquiring data representing the body of information;

10 instructions for storing the acquired data;

instructions for generating a display of a first segment of the body of information from data that is part of the stored data;

15 instructions for comparing data representing a segment of the body of information to data representing a different segment of the body of information to determine whether, according to one or more predetermined criteria, the compared segments are related; and

20 instructions for generating a display of a portion of, or a representation of, a second segment of the body of information from data that is part of the stored data, wherein the display of the portion or representation of the second segment is generated in response to the display of a first segment to which the second segment is related.

25 60. A computer readable medium encoded with one or more computer programs for enabling categorization according to subject matter of an uncategorized segment of a body of information that includes a plurality of segments, each segment representing a defined set of information in the body of 30 information, one or more segments having previously been categorized by identifying each of the one or more segments

with one or more subject matter categories, comprising:

instructions for determining the degree of similarity between the subject matter content of the uncategorized segment and the subject matter content of each of the previously categorized segments;

5 instructions for identifying one or more of the previously categorized segments as relevant to the uncategorized segment based upon the determined degrees of similarity of subject matter content between the uncategorized segment and the previously categorized segments; and

10 instructions for selecting one or more subject matter categories with which to identify the uncategorized segment based upon the subject matter categories used to identify the relevant previously categorized segments.

15 61. A computer readable medium encoded with one or more computer programs for enabling determination of whether a first set of information represented by a set of data of a first type is relevant to a second set of information represented by a set 20 of data of a second type, the first and second sets of information being different from each other, comprising:

25 instructions for deriving a set of data of the second type from the set of data of the first type, the derived set of data of the second type also being representative of the first set of information;

30 instructions for determining the degree of similarity between the set of data of the second type representing the second set of information and the derived set of data of the second type representing the first set of information; and

instructions for determining whether the first set of information is relevant to the second set of information

based upon the degree of similarity between the set of data of the second type representing the second set of information and the derived set of data of the second type representing the first set of information.

5 62. A computer readable medium encoded with one or more computer programs for enabling identification of the boundaries of segments in a body of information, each segment comprising a contiguous related set of information in the body of information, wherein the body of information is represented by
10 at least a set of text data and a set of video data, comprising:

instructions for performing a coarse partitioning method, the coarse partitioning instructions further comprising:

15 instructions for identifying time-stamped markers in the set of text data; and

instructions for determining approximate segment boundaries within the body of information as the times of occurrence of the time-stamp markers;

20 instructions for specifying, for each approximate segment boundary, a range of time that includes the time of occurrence of the approximate segment boundary;

instructions for extracting subsets of video data from the set of video data that occur during the specified ranges of time;

25 instructions for performing a fine partitioning method to identify one or more breaks in the set of video data; and

30 instructions for selecting the best break that occurs in each subset of video data, the time of occurrence of the best break in each subset being designated as a boundary of a segment in the body of information.